

Letter from Eliza Symonds Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, March 2, 1873, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ontario, Canada. March 2d, 75 . (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 292 Essex Street, Salem, Mass. U.S.) My dear Aleck,

I am uncertain if you are still in Washington or at home, but think I shall be safer in directing this to the latter. Poor dear Carrie was dressing for her wedding when your telegram arrived, and Papa received your card at the same time. I fancy you must have forgotten that his birth-day falls on the first of March, as you have not noticed either this year or last. Tomorrow is yours and we unite in wishing you many, many happy returns of the day, and we hope that this one especially is brightened by good hopes of success in your present undertaking. You have good friends to back you, and with their aid, we trust you will safely battle through your difficulties. Yesterday we had the most violent snow-storm of the season. The day before had been beautiful, bright and warm like a summer's day, and we thought what delightful weather Carrie and George would have for their trip, but next morning I really did not think it possible they would put their heads out of doors; for independent of the snow that was falling, the high wind sent the drifts along in clouds.

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Towards the middle of the day, it moderated a little. I fancy you know Carrie's desire and George's also, for complete privacy, so as to avoid any stir from prying eyes during the ceremony. For this reason, the exact day was kept a strict secret between the families, and the two arranged to be married in Mount Pleasant Church instead of at Brantford. Papa and I were not present, we felt that we could not be, but Uncle David and all his family, went with Carrie in a large sleigh holding six or seven persons, and Uncle David gave her away. She was dreadfully nervous at first, but got over at last. George brought her in for a minute on their return, before he drove her off to the railway, pummelled by the

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young people with old shoes, as they drove from the porch. All our family staid to dinner and drove home afterwards in the ponderous sleigh that brought them out. The bride and bridegroom went to Buffalo. Carrie is going to write for one of Miss Rye's girls. Another pair of hands will be some help at first and they will grow bigger. Your Uncle is off again tomorrow for some other places where he is to read. Tom Goode and Mary Ballachey are to be married soon after George returns. The latter will bring Carrie here for two or three days till after the auction of Sam's effects, which takes place on the 12th.

Papa was away last week to read at . He had a terrible journey both there and back. In consequence of the railway being blocked up with snow, he had to take another and much longer route- 30 miles of the distance being 3 got over in an open sleigh, and the same in returning. In the latter ride the cold was so intense that both his cheeks were frost-bitten, and he came home with them as black as a nigger's and very sore. They are getting well now and the black skin is peeling off. There is great distress in the Town for want of water. We have used only melted snow for several weeks past. We had a letter from Coats last week. His Father and Mother are likely to be out next fall to his brother's marriage.

Papa has been made a Justice of the Peace! Dear love in which Papa unites, Ever your affectionate Mother, E.G. Bell.